right and privilege to use part of his crop as seed for his next crop will not be cultivated in any manner by the "effective sui-generis system for IPR protection". Government have also proposed amendments to the text on TRIPs to ensure explicity that the effectiveness of a sui-generis system for the protection of plant varieties will not stand in the way of farmer's privilage.

While the Dunkel proposals allow for the exclusion of plants and animals from patentability, micro-organisms are required to be made patentable. India is seeking a dilution of the provision concerning patentability of micro-organisms.

Government have not yet taken a final view on the Dunkel proposals as these are still being negotiated.

Stainless Steel Exporters Facing Cash Crunch

1416. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters of stainless steel products are facing cash crunch due to delay in payment of their dues under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) IPRS payments are inteded to compensate the exporters for the higher price of domestic steel compared to the international price of steel. Such payments are financed out of a Cess levied on major steel producers in the country. On account of inadequate receipts through the cess, some delay has occrred in settlement of IPRS claims of the exporters of Engineering Goods including stainless steel products, for exports effected during 1992-93.

(b) Government has recently released a special grant of Rs. 75 crores from Budgetary sources to bridge the gap. Some other possibilities are also being examined to make up the difference in cost of steel for the Exporters.

Relaxation of *Exim* Policy

1417. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Exim Policy and norms have been further eased, and if so, the details of changes introduced in this regard during the last three month; and

(b) what are the reasons leading to further relaxations in the Exim Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. During the last three months, Muriate of Potash (MOP), Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) and Sulphate of Potash (SOP) have been removed from the Canalised List of Imports. Gentamycin Sulphate, Cassia and Cinnamon have been deleted from the Negative List of Imports. Norms for 232 more export products have been notified and now there are 2444 standardised norms for grant of licences under Duty Exemption Scheme. Export of Sawn Timber made exclusively out of imported Teak Logs has been permitted subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

(b) Relaxation in the Exim Policy has been done with a view to making available the items mentioned above at competitive prices in the domestic market as well as to encourage export of value added products.